

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

Advertising Agencies.—Some people seem to have a peculiar idea of their real place in the world of work; they seem to think it is their duty or their right or their prerogative to run other people's affairs for them. Thus the life insurance companies, a few years ago, considered it their duty or their right to fix the fees which physicians should charge for making examinations for life insurance. . . . A number of our advertisers have recommended this *Journal* to other advertisers; a large number of our readers who have responded to our request to consider this question of advertising and have read the editorial notes on the subject from time to time, make it a rule to look through the advertising pages, and find that it is distinctly to their advantage to do so. Recently an advertiser wrote us that he had made a number of excellent sales from his advertisement in one issue, and stated that three or four people had voluntarily referred to an editorial on the advertising question. "It pays to advertise"; yes, and it pays to read advertisements. Do it; read those in your own *Journal*.

Progress or Carelessness.—Is medicine making such rapid advances that an opinion which is correct today will be incorrect six months hence? Are we advancing so rapidly in all matters pertaining to general medicine that a paper written this month will be obsolete a year from now? . . . It is well to be a little "slow in the head"; if you are right today, you will be just as right a year from now; if science has advanced in the year beyond the world's knowledge of today, you need not be ashamed of it.

Newspaper Influence.—*Collier's Weekly* has at last begun the publication of a series of articles by Will Irwin, on the newspapers of the United States. The foreshadowing of the first article indicates that the series will be much read and discussed. . . .

Causes of Death.—From the Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, comes a little vest-pocket pamphlet with the title "Physicians' Pocket Reference to the International List of Causes of Death." (Comment for thought: There is nothing pertaining to medicine or public health that comes to medical men from a medical or public health department of the national government. Matters of medical or public health interest percolate through the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Commerce and Labor or the Treasury Department. Everything is worth something commercially, except life and health!) . . .

Remarkable Suit Won.—The suit against Dr. Rae Smith of Los Angeles for \$50,000 for malpractice was recently fought out in courts, the verdict being for the defendant, Doctor Smith, the jury taking about ten minutes in coming to their decision. . . . This is the first suit to be tried in court and defended by the Medical Society of the State of California under our medical defense plan, and the outcome is gratifying in the extreme. The attack upon Doctor Smith, whose treatment was absolutely correct, was exceedingly bitter and it is most unfortunate that the daily papers, which gave considerable space to the melodramatic incidents of the trial, should not have given as much space to the final decision of the jury and the vindication of Doctor Smith.

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Counties of California yesterday had a clearly stated court authorization to refuse public hospital care to persons able to pay for treatment in private hospitals. A decision clarifying the question controverted in San Francisco and other county hospitals, was handed down by the Fourth District Appellate Court at Fresno. It affirmed an injunction issued by Superior Judge Van Zante to Kern County taxpayers. The injunction in effect restrains Kern supervisors and management of the Kern County Hospital from admitting others than indigents to the hospital. . . ." (San Francisco *Examiner*, February 1, 1936.)

The resignation of Mr. William A. Byrne, who has served in Los Angeles for several years as assistant special agent of the Board of Medical Examiners, was accepted, effective February 12, 1936.

"Warnings were issued today by sheriff's officers against the activities of alleged fake eye specialists who are said to have fleeced several unsuspecting residents of the county during the past few weeks with a time-worn fraud. Officers here are cooperating with authorities in other sections of the Southland in search for the pseudo-doctors. . . ." (Riverside *Press*, January 4, 1936). (See Board of Medical Examiners' exhibit, Hall of Medical Science, San Diego Exposition.) (Previous entries, February, 1926, to date.)

"With only the devotion of his many women followers to buoy him, troubles increased yesterday for 'Dr.' Adolph Henri Engelhardt, Long Beach 'divine healer,' under arrest on a charge of criminally attacking a sixteen-year-old girl disciple. Charges of violating the State Medical Practice Act were filed against Engelhardt by William A. Byrne, state medical officer, on the ground that the mystic had no license to practice medicine, chiropractic, or osteopathy. A warrant was served on Engelhardt in the Long Beach jail, where he was being held in lieu of \$5,000 bond in the attack charge. . . ." (Los Angeles *Examiner*, January 15, 1936.)

"New discoveries of what are described as falsification of records were made today as three separate investigations got under way into the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Ella Mae Clemmons, one-time 'Christ Angel of Chinatown.' One investigation was being pressed by the grand jury, district attorney, and police here; another by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners; and a third by City Manager C. Ray Fritz of Alameda. . . . Mr. Fritz said his detectives had discovered other discrepancies in the death certificate. The certificate listed Hjalmar E. Groneman, husband of the 'Chinatown Christ Angel,' as the 'informant,' and stated Miss Clemmons had been a resident of Alameda County seven months, whereas she had been in that city only six days. . . . Another investigation was announced by C. Russell Willett, D.C., member, and last year's president of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, which has jurisdiction over Mr. Groneman. . . ." (San Francisco *News*, January 21, 1936). "Hjalmar Groneman, chiropractor, was formally booked at the city prison yesterday on a charge of manslaughter. He was released on bail of \$1,000. . . . The indictment holds Groneman criminally

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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